New Pension Scheme for Port Workers

170. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to bring in a new pension scheme for port workers, seafarers etc.;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether Government also plans to frame a policy on stevedoring; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government introduced a new pension scheme based on defined contribution for new entrants recruited on or after 1.1.2004 for all employees of the Government and PSUs, autonomous bodies under the administrative control of different Central Ministries/Departments *vide* Gazette notification of 10th October, 2003. No further new scheme for grant of pension for port workers, seafarers etc. is under consideration.

(c) and (d) The Government plans to formulate National Maritime Policy covering various aspects of Ports, Shipping and Inland Water Transport. Among other things, stev-e-doring will also be covered in the said Policy. The Draft National Maritime Policy has already been placed on the website of Department of Shipping (www.shipping.nic.in) for inviting suggestions from various stakeholders. Meetings have also been held with various stakeholders including one interactive session at Mumbai.

Construction work on MH-57

†171. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the construction work of National Highway-57; and

(b) the target set by Government for completion of the construction work?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.